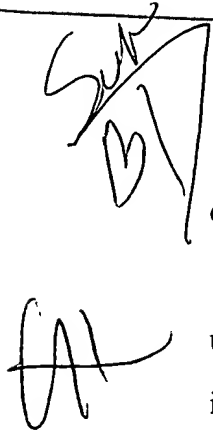


IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 1 to 20 without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter and add new Claims 21 to 22 as follows. The claims, as pending in the subject application, read as follows:


1. to 20. (Canceled)

 21. (New) An information processing apparatus comprising:
a storage unit arranged to store location information of a plurality of devices;
a reception unit arranged to receive location information which is input by a user in order to search for a predetermined device and which is transferred from another information processing apparatus;
a retrieval unit arranged to retrieve location information of said another information processing apparatus;
a search unit arranged to search for a device, whose location information is stored in said storage unit, in accordance with the location information received by said reception unit and the location information stored in said storage unit; and
a transfer unit arranged to transfer device information searched by said search unit to said another information processing apparatus.

22. (New) An information processing apparatus according to Claim 21, wherein the location information received by said reception unit is information which designates a first area, the location information retrieved by said retrieval unit is

information which designates a second area, and said search unit searches for a device having location information which designates said first area and said second area.

23. (New) An information processing apparatus according to Claim 21, wherein the device information transferred by said transfer unit includes identification information of the device and the location information of the device, and the transferred location information is designated by a plurality of hierarchies.

 24. (New) An information processing apparatus according to Claim 23, further comprising a generation unit arranged to generate map information by selecting any of the plurality of hierarchies which designate the location information of the device searched by said search unit,

wherein said transfer unit transfers the map information generated by said generation unit to the another information processing apparatus.

25. (New) An information processing apparatus comprising:
a first transfer unit arranged to transfer location information input by a user in order to search for a predetermined device;

a second transfer unit arranged to transfer location information of said information processing apparatus itself; and

a reception unit arranged to receive search results based on the location information transferred by said first transfer unit and the location information transferred by said second transfer unit.

26. (New) An information processing apparatus according to Claim 25, wherein the location information transferred by said first transfer unit is information which designates a first area, the location information transferred by said second transfer unit is information which designates a second area and a third area, and said reception unit receives the search results comprising a device having the location information which designates said first area and said second area.

27. (New) An information processing apparatus according to Claim 26, wherein said second area includes said first area and said third area.

28. (New) An information processing apparatus according to Claim 25, wherein said search results include identification information of the device and the location information of the device, and the location information of the device is designated by plurality of hierarchies.

29. (New) An information processing apparatus according to Claim 28, further comprising:

a selection unit arranged to select any of the hierarchies which designate the location information of the device of the search results received by said reception unit; and

a display unit arranged to display the hierarchy selected by said selection unit as a map.

30. (New) An information processing apparatus according to Claim 28, further comprising a display unit arranged to display the hierarchy selected by a user,

among the location information of the devices in the search results received by said reception unit.

31. (New) A method of searching for a device, comprising:

a reception step of receiving location information which is input by a user in order to search for a predetermined device and which is transferred from an information processing apparatus;

a retrieval step of retrieving location information of said information processing apparatus;

a search step of searching for a device in accordance with the location information received in said reception step and the location information retrieved in said retrieval step; and

a transfer step of transferring device information searched in said search step to the information processing apparatus.